

IN THE MINES

Operations in Cochise County, Sonora and Throughout the Territory

TEVISTON LETTER.

In Which will be Found Some Mining News.

Special Correspondence of the REVIEW.

This northeast corner of Cochise county is enjoying its usual share of prosperity. There is unusual activity in the mines tributary to this town and a great deal of assessment work has been in progress recently and some steady work has been begun on several claims.

Mr. E. S. Kinchaler, who is a pioneer in this section, having been interested in various mining operations here for twenty years, has been unable to walk for over one month, because of an accident which befell him. He discharged a Winchester into his left foot, inflicting a painful wound. He is now on crutches and will go to the hills this week to look after assessment work now being done on some of his property.

Capt. J. H. Tevis is the same old Cap. He has been forty years in Arizona and was original settler here where he bored a well and engaged in the mercantile business. When the Southern Pacific railroad reached this point he was keeping the stage station. He has some important mining property in the Chiricahua mountains to the south. Recently the captain gave up the Depot Hotel here, but has opened his old hotel building on the north side of the railroad track where a good business is assured.

For many years Solomon & Wicksham had a large wholesale mercantile business here, but a year ago it was moved to Safford in the Gila valley. Now they only have a retail business here, which is in charge of Mr. Frank Kelsey, who is also justice of the peace of this "burg."

Early in the spring Captain Tevis expects to begin shipping ore from his Mineral Spring mine eight miles southwest. About 70 feet of work has been done on this property and the ore is all right—gold and silver.

A. W. Woodbury has contracted to do fifty feet of work for a company of Big Springs, Texas, J. G. Gibson, formerly telegraph operator here, being interested. This property is located two miles from Fort Bowie. It is a gold proposition and very similar in character to the gold property near by owned by Col. H. C. Hooker, the well known cattleman.

Mr. Braun, who has some Fort Grant parties interested with him, has been for the past year working on a group of gold mines near Mineral Springs. The work done has made a fine showing and this property is believed to be the best gold prospect in the Chiricahua mountains.

The Fountain mine, also near Mineral Springs, is owned by Mrs. Tevis. Seventy-five feet of work has been done here and it is being continued with most encouraging results, assays giving good returns in gold from a well defined vein.

Mr. Ruse, a Texas gentleman, recently purchased from Mr. Kinchilla some promising claims near Teviston, and development work is now being done under contract by E. N. Woodbury. The ore in these mines carries gold silver and lead. A tunnel is now in 70 feet, the face of which shows a fine body of ore, the depth of the tunnel and one hundred feet wide.

THE CALIFORNIA DISTRICT.

Another important mining district in this part of Cochise country is the California district, twenty-five miles south of San Simon station and eighteen miles from the line of the new railroad now being built from Bisbee. This district is, judging from surface indications, one of the best mineralized sections of the southwest and will no doubt in a few years attract the attention of mining capital when an important mining camp will be the result. There are large bodies of copper ore

here, though the earlier working was begun with the idea that lead was the predominant metal. At present two properties are shipping lead ore to El Paso—one owned by Mr. Daughter and other Colorado parties, and the other by Meyers & Walker.

Captain Thos. Burns owns a group of copper properties here on which he has done over 6,000 feet of work during the last ten years. This is a large copper proposition, the ore being found in deposits, the formation being very similar to the Bisbee district.

The Mining Association.

Those interested in the organization of a mining association in El Paso have raised a subscription with which to defray the expenses of two representatives to visit the various mining districts throughout the Southwest bearing invitation to all mining men to be present at the organization of the association in this city January 16th. The gentlemen selected for this mission are Major S. M. Davis and Mr. R. L. Wootton, who will cover the field thoroughly. They started out the first of the week. This is not to be understood to be an El Paso scheme, whereby this city is to reap the benefits. Somebody always has to start things going—to take the initiative—and certain gentlemen in this city, recognizing the importance of such an organization not alone to El Paso, but of the entire southwest, issued the call for a meeting and invited all mining men to attend. Every camp or district in the southwest has the same concern in it that El Paso has, and should feel as great a degree of interest in making it a success. The Record hopes that every district will be represented, which if done, will make a rousing meeting and a grand success. It is desired that every one take the invitation personally and be on hand.—Industrial Record.

Gold Strike Made in Groom District.

Report comes from Groom creek in northern Arizona of a strike of remarkable rich gold ore in Pickrell's Mid-night Test mine. The Prescott Courier says that this property is the northern extension of Wm. Kelly's Nevada mine, from which a great deal of rich ore was shipped in the early days. The Nevada is still a good property, but its workings are filled with water. The Midnight Test has been a noted mine for over a quarter of a century under other names, and has produced in the early days, a great deal of rich ore which was shipped to San Francisco at big profit. It was owned by George Curtis and John Akers, and was then known as the Morning Star. It was later owned by George Berry who called it the Adel. Berry sold it to the Hon. John S. Jones who also worked it at a profit. The new strike in this mine is only another proof that with deep workings a very large percentage of the rich surface workings of early days will show just as rich ore and permanent ore bodies.

The Silver Market.

Speaking of the possible future demand for silver, the London Statist says: "As the silver now in the reserve is now at an irreducible minimum, the whole of the future demand for rupees will have to be met by purchases of new silver. If India absorbed 60,000,000 ounces of silver in the past year of famine, what will it require in a year of prosperity? The world's production of silver is not much over 160,000,000 ounces, and India's requirements in the past year have been equal to nearly 40 per cent of the total output. From the closing of the Indian mints until the current year India purchases of silver were not more than about 15,000,000 ounces per annum. Now we have the prospect that the demand may be 60,000,000 ounces a year. It will be evident, therefore, that the Indian government will be a constant and large buyer of silver and the price in the future will rule at a much higher level than it has done since the closing of the Indian mints.

At the Eastern Sunday mine last week an important strike of rich gold ore was made, the best that has yet been discovered. The vein was two feet wide but soon narrowed down and resulted in a rich pocket. These pockets of rich ore have been encountered from time to time, getting larger and larger and it is the general opinion of mining men that a rich mine will be uncovered as the development work proceeds. The incorporators of the Eastern Sunday are J. H. Huber, Wm. Scrimsher, I. W. Wallace, T. P. Divine, John Heil H. E. Hanninger, K. P. Brown, J. C. Krigbaum, C. A. Overlock, Peter Johnson.

FOUND A BURIED TREASURE.

The Luck of Two Prospectors Near the Town of Talarosa.

About eight miles from Talarosa, on the road to Pullman's well, Andrew Fuqua and Noah Pattee, prospectors, found a cache of mining implements, including gads, picks, drills, shovels, two saws, hammer and axe. They also found a coffee mill and one hundred pounds of rich gold bearing rock, in addition there were nearly fifty Mexican dollars and 190 small coins. The money and tools had evidently been buried in sacks and dug up by coyotes, as the contents of the sacks were scattered over several feet of ground. The handles of the tools show signs of decay, indicating that they must have been buried years ago. The articles were hidden probably by some one with the intention of returning to them in a short time, as one of the sacks contained coffee and tobacco. It is supposed that they were hidden by prospectors who either lost their bearings and could not locate the spot again or they were killed by Indians. The gold rock panned out \$31.40.—Albuquerque Citizen.

Alaska Copper.

Speaking of recent shipments of copper ore from Alaska to the Tacoma smelter, the San Francisco Chronicle says:

The high percentage in copper of these northern deposits is what will attract the attention of the mining world. All of the Alaskan deposits carry high percentages. It is nothing unusual for them to run from 25 to 75 per cent of copper and what would be a paying volume per ton of gold besides, if it were only free from the association of the base metal. What these high percentages mean will be better understood when it is said that the Calumet and Hecla mine of Michigan is paying dividends this year of \$40,000,000 out of a total production \$80,000,000 obtained from ore carrying only 4 per cent copper. Some Lake Superior ore has been worked profitably although containing 1.58 per cent copper. The Anaconda of Montana is paying the enormous dividends out of ore carrying only 4.64 per cent of copper and a small quantity of silver and gold extracted as by products in the refining of the base metal turned out off the smelters. Arizona's famous Copper Queen yields 8 per cent ore and some carrying only 2 1/2 per cent has been worked at a profit. When the gloss wears of the gold discoveries of Alaska, and the development of the Territory's high-grade copper deposits is undertaken in real earnest, the world will witness the making of fortunes from them more fabulous in their proportion than any yet made in the richest of the Territory's gold fields.

Mining in Mexico.

The following is from the message of President Diaz to the Mexican Congress:

"The mining industry continues to develop without interruption. The number of title deeds issued during the last fiscal year was 2,184, covering 33,899 claims of one hectare each, an increase of 489 title deeds over the previous fiscal year. The states in which there are the largest number of mining properties are in the order mentioned, Durango, Sonora and Chihuahua. The increase of the exploitation of copper in the republic is worthy of note, as in the returns of exports it appears that the figures for the last fiscal year almost double those of the previous year, amounting to a little less than \$10,000,000. The country's industrial development has led to greater activity in prospecting for coal and to the establishment of new workings in the deposits already discovered, as for example, at Las Esperanzas, in Coahuila, where arrangements are in progress for initiating the operation of the mines on a large scale.

Killed by a Blast.

T. H. Gage, an American aged about 45 years, who was employed as a foreman in the railroad construction work at Antonelli's camp a few miles south of Clifton, was accidentally killed on Monday last. Two deep holes had been drilled. A Mexican was to fire the upper shot, while Mr. Gage was to fire the lower one. The upper hole was nineteen inches deep and contained a large charge of powder. The first match which Mr. Gage lit went out. He struck a second one, and just as the fuse lit the upper shot went off and he was buried beneath several tons of rock. Death must have been instantaneous. Only one arm was visible above the rock. The body was taken out as soon as possible and Justice Munro notified. A coroner's inquest was held and the facts as above stated developed. The body was brought to Clifton and interred Wednesday afternoon. Mrs. Gage, who resides in Chihuahua, was notified of her husband's untimely death.—Copper Era.

Mrs. C. M. Johnson will give lessons in embroidery, Kensington and Battenberg, on Saturday's from 2 to 4 p. m. Tyler house, Bisbee. nol4 lm

A MEXICAN JUDGE.

Visits El Paso and Talks of Matters in Sonora.

Among the visitors recently in El Paso, says the Times, was Lic. E. M. Castellanos and wife of Nogales, Sonora, who are en route to Mexico City. Lic. Castellanos holds the office of federal district judge for Sonora at Nogales. In this capacity he tried and determined the famous mining controversy between the Greene and Cobre Grande people of the property at La Cananea, Sonora, and his decision was sustained by the supreme court of the republic a short time ago. At present he is engaged in the trial of Conductor Bonsall, of the Sonora railroad, for alleged murder as a result of the killing of a man by his train.

Judge Castellanos was seen by a reporter of the Times last night at the Orndorff, and when asked regarding recent events in Sonora, he said:

"Yes, there has been some trouble recently with trainmen on account of accidents. Most of the cases that were complained of were at Hermosillo, Guaymas and Magdalena and outside of my jurisdiction. The men were held by the judges of the state. They are now being tried and the cases being disposed of. Most of the trouble arises from misunderstandings. While there have been some cases of carelessness on the part of trainmen, at the same time accidents are unavoidable, especially in the night, and we do not seek to hold anyone responsible for unavoidable accidents. The case of Conductor Bonsall is now on trial before me, and will I think, be determined some time in January. His friends are now preparing his defense.

"I understand the Greene and Cobre Grande people have now made peace with each other and will work in harmony. The case was tried before me some time ago and carried to the highest court in the country and decided in Mr. Greene's favor.

Judge Castellanos will leave today for the City of Mexico on a pleasure trip to return about January first.

William Jennings Bryan carried the Klondike by an overwhelming majority at the last presidential election. The vote was: McKinley, 933; Bryan, 2,404; total polled, 3,337; Bryan's majority, 1,371.

A two hundred and fifty pound chunk of galena is on exhibition in Hackberry, taken from the Watts mine, at the head of McGarry Wash, at the north end of the Wallapai mountains.—Kingman Miner.

Ore is coming in regularly from the Peabody, Dunlap and Gleason mines, and the Commonwealth, of Pearce, expects to make a shipment of bullion soon, says the Range News.

The El Paso Times says: Chas. De Groff, of the Orndorff, has some specimens of iron mineral that were taken from his mine in Arizona a few days ago. Two large samples of this ore will be sent to Germany to be tested. The mineral contained in the ore is worth \$75 a pound.

Mr. H. F. Sutton of Denver, Colorado, is making reports upon some extensive copper properties near Alamos, and has made some twenty denunciations. He expects to return to Denver about January 15th, and will immediately return with others to further explore the district.

Here are a couple of facts that in these days of copper are interesting to note. In July, 1855, copper was 55 cents a pound. In June, 1894, the price was 9 cents a pound. These figures respectively represent the highest and lowest prices of copper during the last forty years.

J. B. Gregory, a well known mining man has just made an important strike of rich copper ore about one and a half miles north of Dragoon. Mr. Gregory's property is located in a most favored section, rich in mineral, and samples of ore from his strike show high percentage in copper, the ore being a copper glance. The fortunate owner claims he has an 8-foot ledge and is diligently at work developing his valuable find.

The Pedras Verdes copper property in Sonora is now under examination by Captain B. Tibby for Senator Clark of Butte, Montana. The price asked is one million dollars. The property consists of 400 claims, located fifteen miles northwest of Alamos, and is owned by Jesus Almada and others of Alamos and Caliacan. It will take some time to finish the exploitation and if the report is favorable a large smelter will be put upon the property at once.—Oasis.

Hon. Charles R. Drake who held an option upon the Picacho gold mines for \$100,000 has sold the option to Senator A. Dorsey for \$125,000, thus cleaning up \$25,000 in the deal. The claims are the Mars, Venus, San George and Goshen, all gold quartz veins and are located not far from Yuma and close to the Colorado river in the famous Picacho gold district. Senator Dorsey's company will erect a 1000 ton cyanide plant and mill at the mines. The plan includes the building of a railroad from the mines to the mill, which will be located on the river. When in operation the mines will be among the heaviest gold producers in the southwest.—Citizen.

A MONSTER NUGGET

History of the Largest Ever Found in California.

An Act of Providence that Saved a Drunken Prospector—The Nugget Sold for \$22,700.

The story of famous gold finds is always a fascinating one. Recently there has been published by Thomas J. Hurley, a mining engineer, a little work relating to the history of some of the great nuggets that have been found from time to time.

Among other interesting stories related is the following:

"There is an exciting incident connected with the finding of the Oliver Martin nugget, the largest ever found in California, which sold for \$22,700 after it had earned \$10,000 from exhibitions in various parts of the country. Although a young man, Oliver Martin was little better than a tramp. He spent his time in doing odd jobs and drinking whisky around the mining camps of Yuba, Toulumne, El Dorado and Calaveras counties. He didn't even own a pan, much less a rocker or a long tom. One of his boon companions was John Fowler, who was equally shiftless and dissipated.

"One night in November, 1854, the two were on their way from Benton's Barr over the Grizzly mountains to Camp Corona; the spot made famous in literature by Bret Harte. The fall rains had begun and the streams were running high. On the night of the 17th, almost stupid with drink, the two took refuge in a deserted miner's hut. The water fell in torrents and came pouring down the mountain sides. The narrow canyon where Martin and Fowler lay asleep and drunk soon filled with rush waters which threatened to sweep away the old shack of a building. They were awakened by the water pouring into the cabin and sought to escape by climbing the steep sides of the canyon. Both men were swept back into the flood and were carried down the stream in the darkness. Martin was washed into a clump of live oaks and managed to lodge clinging to the branches until morning, but Fowler was drowned.

"Next day, November 18th, toward noon, when the waters had subsided, Martin secured a pick and shovel and started to bury his dead companion. He selected a sandy spot at the base of the cliff and had not dug down two feet when he came upon the nugget. He made several tests before he could convince himself that it was really gold. The chunk was bigger than a bull's head and too heavy for Martin to carry. He hurried to Camp Corona to secure help. He had some difficulty in getting anyone to go with him. At last a miner consented, but carefully made the statement that he was going to help bury Fowler and not to carry nuggets, as he, like others in the camp, placed no confidence in Martin's story. The chunk weighed eighty pounds and required the combined efforts of Oliver and his assistant to get it to the camp.

"Before starting both men staked claims, Martin, of course, claiming his where he had unearthed the big nugget. As soon as the news of the great find spread, miners flocked in by hundreds, but although the stream was carefully prospected for miles nothing of any great value was found. Martin considered that his find, in view of the peculiar circumstances attending it was an act of providence, and he never touched intoxicants thereafter. With the money he got from the sale of his nugget he went to mining in a business like manner. Later he was attracted to Yucatan, where he made over half a million in quartz mining. He died in New Orleans a few years ago, leaving a fortune of over \$1,000,000."

The Mesa city postoffice robber, Collins, was sentenced to five years at Yuma by Judge Street last week.

The Troy Mining company is promoting a wagon road scheme from that camp to Globe, by the way of Capitan. They claim it is a highly feasible route for a splendid heavy traffic road. The company proposes to pay half the expenses of its construction. Troy bids fair to be the best camp in that section, Globe wants trade. Why not investigate the matter immediately and to a conclusion, and see if we cannot make a good stroke for Globe and Gila county.—Times.

Norton Chase, attorney for the Greene interests, which is now in control of the Cananea mines, is in the city, says the Mexican Herald, of the City of Mexico. There is at present no litigation over the property, the last decision of the supreme court giving the Greene interests entire possession of the mines. One purpose of Mr. Chase's trip is to secure a concession allowing the wagons of the company to cross the border. The Cananea mountains, where the mines are situated, are only thirty-eight miles from Naco, on the border between Mexico and Arizona. Another purpose of Mr. Chase's visit is to organize a company to build and operate a railroad from Naco to the mines. The concession for this railroad has already been granted to the Greene company.